

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: Cryoton

2. Name of applicant: Hancock Forest Management

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Hancock Forest Management, 31716 Camp One Road, Orting, Washington 98360. Robert E. Wistoski, (360) 879-5810

4. Date checklist prepared: March 25, 2009

5. Agency requesting checklist: Washington State Department of Natural Resources

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): Second & third quarters of 2010 or aligns with approval date and duration of WA Department of Natural Resources Forest Practices Application.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain

No

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

Geotechnical Report, Proposed Cryoton Harvest Unit, T16N-R06E-Sec15, Pierce County, Washington; prepared by John LaManna, LaManna Geosciences Inc.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

WA State Department of Natural Resources Forest Practice Application/Notification Notice of Decision.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

Applicant proposing to harvest approximately 81 acres of 45 to 55 year old conifer and deciduous timber.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

Portions of the SW1/4,SW1/4 of Section 14, Twp 16N, Rge 06E, portions of SE1/4 of Section 15 Twp. 16N, Rge 06E and portions of NE1/4,NE1/4 of Section 22 Twp. 16N, Rge 06E in Pierce county.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
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B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous,
other

Steep slopes, mountainous terrain, (Broken Topography)

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

65-80%

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

There are four soil units in the vicinity of the (PHU) planned harvest unit. These are; Tusip sandy loam, 15 to 30 percent slope, Tusid sandy loam, 30 to 65 percent slope, Vailton silt loam, 8 to 30 percent slopes and Vailton silt loam, 30 to 65 percent slopes.

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Visible on aerial photos where areas of bare soil and bedrock hollows and steep disturbed areas with a dearth of old growth stumps suggesting shallow slope movements have occurred. Refer to Geotechnical Report, Proposed Cryoton Harvest Unit, T16N-R06E-SEC 15, Pierce County, Washington. All of the potentially unstable areas within the PHU have been removed from the proposed harvest area.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Proposed as a timber harvesting activity. No filling or grading proposed.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Low potential for erosion exists because of; ditch-lines, cross-drains and sediment traps as part of the existing road systems. Logs will be partially to fully suspended to minimize ground disturbance on steeper slopes. A standing skyline with a remote motorized carriage will be employed to lift logs straight upward on the steepest topography. The area will be planted with seedlings shortly after timber harvesting activity. Areas that might be disturbed during the log hauling activity will be covered with hay or straw to minimize erosion and sediment delivery.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

There will be approximately 2% of re-constructed or newly constructed rocked secondary roads, (not a completely impervious surface).

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

New road ditch-lines established to collect water run-off from road surface. Eighteen and twenty four inch drainage culverts have or will be installed. Straw dispersal and natural seeding will occur on exposed soil areas that could erode. Ditch-outs and sediment traps will be created as required to reduce erosion.

a. **Air**

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Diesel and gas powered vehicle emissions from timber harvesting and road maintenance equipment during harvesting activity. Possibly some smoke emissions from slash pile burning may occur after timber harvest activity, quantities unknown.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No

2413580

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Standard emission control devices will be used on harvesting and road construction equipment. Slash piles will be required to be free of dirt and inorganic debris.

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3. Water

- a. Surface:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Numerous unnamed NP streams and Niesson Creek. The NP streams will have a minimum of 50' buffer upstream for a minimum 500' from the confluence with Niesson Creek, and Niesson Creek which will have a minimum 170' or 110' buffer from bank-full edge. All streams have been buffered the entire length of perennial flow. The road system has been designed so that timber can be fell away from and yarded away from F, NP and NS streams and forested wetlands within or adjacent to the proposed harvest unit boundary.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Placement of tail-hold cables across Niesson Creek and unnamed F, NP and NS streams. Logs will be yarded away from streams and stream buffers. Logs will be fully suspended across NP or NS streams so that the logs will not destroy any of the streamside vegetation or disrupt the stream banks integrity.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

Does not apply

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No

2413580

b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. Does Not Apply

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c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Forest roads will be crowned and ditched so rainwater flowing off of the surface will be directed onto the forest floor or into a new ditch-line. The ditch-line flow will be directed through cross-drain culverts installed at appropriate locations, away from NP and NS streams and then to the forest floor or sediment traps. Straw will be dispersed in some ditch-lines to trap and hold sediment.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

There is a possibility that waste material could enter surface water only if it were placed in or adjacent to an active stream channel. Contractors will be instructed not to place any waste material in an area where it could enter surface water.

There is always the potential for a fluid spill from equipment to enter surface or ground water. Care will be taken to make sure this does not occur and fluid spill kits will be on site during timber harvesting activity and equipment operations.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

Route run-off water to the forest floor and/or sediment traps. Use vegetation to control sediment delivery after timber harvesting activity is completed.

4. Plants

- a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

X _____ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other: cottonwood, wild cherry

X _____ evergreen tree: fir, (Douglas, noble and silver), cedar, pine, other: western hemlock, spruce,

X _____ shrubs

X _____ grass

_____ pasture

_____ crop or grain

- X _____ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
_____ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
X _____ other types of vegetation

2413580

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Conifer and deciduous trees will be removed from the proposed harvest unit.

Conifer and deciduous trees will be retained along perennial streams. In addition, other unstable areas have been buffered out and will be protected from harvest.

- c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None known

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Replant area with conifer seedlings within 1 year of harvest.

5. Animals

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: raven, crows, grouse
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: rabbit, mountain beaver
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. None Known

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EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

No

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

All or portions of the perennial streams, unstable slopes and forested wetlands within the proposed harvest unit will be buffered out. This will provide for wildlife/green recruitment trees. Snags within the unstable slope areas and riparian habitat areas will be retained unless the snags are determined to be a danger tree and a safety violation as determined by WA Dept. of Labor & Industry if left standing.

6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Does not apply

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?
If so, generally describe.

Does not apply

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal?
List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

Does not apply

2413580

7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal?
If so, describe.

There is a risk of equipment fires, fuel spills, and exposure to fuels and lubricants. The risk of wild fire originating from the site will increase for approximately 5 years after the unit has been harvested

- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

A Hazmat team could be called on in the event of a large fuel or fluid spill. Washington State Department of Natural Resources fire suppression crews and equipment in the event of a fire.

- 2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Operators shall have and maintain all equipment in good and safe operating condition. All petroleum products shall be removed from the area and disposed of in an approved disposal site. Operators shall have an approved accident prevention program. Timber harvesting activities will only be allowed during periods of acceptable fire level hazard conditions as per WA State DNR's industrial fire class precaution levels.

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Does not apply

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Short term increase in noise associated with road construction and timber harvesting equipment, primarily during daylight hours.

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AGENCY USE ONLY

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

The use of agency approved standard noise suppression equipment on road construction and timber harvesting machinery.

8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Commercial forest land

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

No

2413580

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Does not apply

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

Does not apply

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Commercial forest land

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Commercial forest land

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Does not apply

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

Unstable slopes have been removed from the proposed harvest unit, (PHU). Please refer to John LaManna's Geotechnical report for a more thorough description.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Does not apply. (six to eight man logging crew)

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Does not apply

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EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

None other than to make sure the area is replanted and fully stocked with conifer seedlings after the harvesting activity is completed.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Does not apply

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Does not apply

2413580

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Does not apply

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Does not apply

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Minimal visual impact

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Retain a riparian management zone next to streams, which are within and adjacent to the proposed harvest unit. Replant the area with conifer seedlings within 12 months after the harvesting activity has completed.

11. Light and glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Does not apply

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Does not apply

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Does not apply

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Does not apply

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EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Hunting, sight seeing, hiking, mushroom picking etc.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

For safety reasons the area will be monitored and access controlled during road maintenance and timber harvesting activity. Because of easier road access after the timber harvesting activity is completed, recreational opportunity will be enhanced.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

None known

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

None known

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

None proposed

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The area is approximately 20 miles southeast of Kapowsin, via HFM forest roads.

- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Does not apply

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

Does not apply

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

Two new spur roads and landings will need to be constructed within the northwest edge of the proposed harvest unit. Material will be pulled back from an existing road prism area on the southeast edge of the proposed harvest unit and the road will be widened to accommodate two landing locations. The total road construction project will be approximately ten stations,(1,000').

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EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

Approximately 24 to 30 additional vehicular trips per day would be anticipated during the timber harvesting activities.
An unknown number of recreational vehicle traffic utilizes the existing roads for recreational purposes.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

24 1 35 8 0

None proposed

15. Public services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

None proposed

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

None

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

Does not apply

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Robert E. Winterski

Date Submitted: July 27, 2009